

REMARKS

According to the Office Action, claims 24-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,575,399 (Intini). In response, claims 24-28 are cancelled.

According to the Office Action, claims 1-23 are allowed. Applicants' sincerely thank the Examiner for determining that these claims are allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of this patent application is respectfully requested.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any such fee or any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket 100629.53016C1).

Respectfully submitted,

CROWELL & MORING LLP

Dated: December 19, 2005

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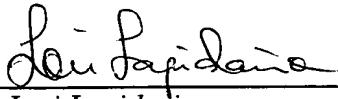
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12/19/2005



Lori Lapidario

Date